MARY ANN PARKER

A Voyage Round the World in the Gorgon Man of War: Captain John Parker

THE VOYAGE SERIES

CILLUNE PRESS

A

VOYAGE

ROUND THE

WORLD

IN

THE GORGON MAN OF WAR:

CAPTAIN JOHN PARKER.

PERFORMED AND WRITTEN BY HIS WIDOW;

FOR THE ADVANTAGE OF A NUMEROUS FAMILY.

DEDICATED, BY PERMISSION,

TO

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS

THE PRINCESS OF WALES

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TO

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS

THE PRINCESS OF WALES,

WITH GRATEFUL THANKS

FOR HER

CONDESCENDING PERMISSION,

THE FOLLOWING WORK

IS MOST HUMBLY DEDICATED

BY HER ROYAL HIGHNESS'S

MOST DEVOTED,

AND MOST OBEDIENT SERVANT,

MARY ANN PARKER.

No. 6, Little Chelsea, June 25, 1795.

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PREFACE.

IT having been most unjustly and injuriously reported, that the Authoress is worth a considerable sum of money; she thinks it her duty thus publicly to avow, that nothing but the greatest distress could ever have induced her to solicit beneficence in the manner she has done, for the advantage of her family.

If this traducing report originates (and it can no otherwise) from Captain Parker's being entitled to a share of prize-money, accruing from successes in the West-Indies; she has to lament, that his debts are unfortunately too considerable to give his children one hope of any thing coming to them after they are discharged.—It is her duty to bring them up not to expect any thing, as it is her first wish that the creditors should be justly reimbursed their demands.

The unhoped-for success she has met with in Subscriptions to this publication demands her acknowledgments; and she trusts her situation as a nurse, and being obliged to attend so much to her domestic concerns, will be accepted as an apology for the brevity and other greater demerits of the book.

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ON the *first* day of January 1791, my late husband, Captain John Parker, was appointed by the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to the command of His Majesty's ship the Gorgon.—On the *second* he received his commission. The ship was then lying at her moorings off Common-hand in Portsmouth harbour, refitting for her intended voyage to New South Wales, and exchanging the provisions she then had, for the newest and best in store.

There were embarked for their passage to the aforenamed colony, a part of the new corps that had been raised for that place, commanded by Major Grose. By the last day of January the ship was ready for sea; and on the *first* day of February pilot came on board, in order to conduct her out of the harbour to Spithead.

When things were in this state of forwardness, it was proposed to me to accompany Captain Parker in the intended expedition to New Holland. A fortnight was allowed me for my decision. An indulgent husband waited my answer at Portsmouth: I did not therefore take a minute's consideration; but by return of post, forwarded one perfectly consonant t his request, and my most sanguine wishes—that of going with *him* to the remotest parts of the globe; although my considerate readers will naturally suppose that my feelings were somewhat wounded at the thoughts of being so long absent from two dear children, and a mother, with whom I had travelled into France, Italy, and Spain; and from whom I had never been separated a fortnight at one time during the whole course of my life.

Attended by an intimate friend, I repaired to the West end of the town, and set off for Portsmouth the next morning. We remained at Spithead until the 12th of March. In the interim orders had arrived to receive on board Captain Gidley King, of the Royal Navy, the intended Lieutenant Governor of Norfolk Island in the Pacific Ocean, together with Mrs. King and their family; also to disembark Major Grose, and such part of the corps as were on board, except Mr. Burton a botanist, Mr. Baines the chaplain, and Mr. Grimes, who, with their attendants, were directed to be continued on board, and to take their passage for the settlement.

On Tuesday, the 15th of March, we sailed from Spithead, by way of St. Helens; and, after a fortnight's seasoning and buffeting in the channel, I began to enjoy the voyage I had undertaken; and with the polite attention of the officers on board, and my amiable companion Mrs. King, we glided over many a watery grave with peace of mind, and uninterrupted

happiness; although many calms tended to render our passage to the island of *Teneriffe* somewhat tedious.

We arrived, however, safe in the bay of *Santa Cruz* on the *fifteenth* of April; and captain Parker sent the second lieutenant on shore, to acquaint the Governor of our having put into that port for refreshment, and offered to exchange salutes,provided his Excellency would assure him the return of an equal number of guns from the garrison; at the same time informing him that he should have the honour, together with the officers, of waiting on him the ensuing day; and that lieutenant governor King of Norfolk Island was a passenger, and also intended to do himself the honour of paying his respects to his Excellency.

The officer returned with the Governor's answer, that whatever the ship stood in need of, she might have; and that an officer should be sent on board, to signify the time when it would be most convenient for His Excellency to receive the compliments we had been so polite as to offer, of waiting on him; but that he had orders from his Court not to return any salute to a foreign Ship of War.

About half an hour after the return of the officer, one of the Governor's Aid-de-Camps came on board: he congratulated us, in his Excellency's name, on our safe arrival, and informed us that the Governor would be happy to see us, and requested that we would favour him with our company to dine with him on the ensuing day.

The invitation was accepted. Our party consisted of Lieutenant Governor King, his lady, our officers, together with Mr. Grimes, and Mr. Baines. The company at Don Antonio di Gutierez (that was the name of the Governor) were; the former Governor the Marquis di Branciforti, the Lieutenant Governor and his lady, with several other officers and their ladies.

The reception we met with, and particularly the compliments *di los manos*[1], would have struck me by their singularity, had I not resided when very young upwards of three years in Spain; during which time I had every reason to believe them particularly attentive to the *English ladies:* and I hope it will be allowed me to remark the great satisfaction which they expressed at my being capable of conversing in their own language —a pleasure which I could not help participating with them, from having it in my power to be of some service, as *Interpreter General* to the party with whom I had the satisfaction of sailing.

It being Passion-week, the dinner, although sumptuous, consisted of many dishes dressed with oil.—After having, from hunger and politeness, ate more than we wished of the least rancid dishes, not expecting any plain ones to make their appearance; we were quite surprized when a large roasted Turkey, dressed quite in the English fashion, was brought on the table:—had it made an earlier entrance, it would have been well finished, but, unfortunately, it came so unexpectedly, that our appetites had been satisfied, with a previous course of rancid plenty.

After dinner our formidable party paraded the town, which I suppose to be very near a mile in length, and about about half a mile in breadth. There are several neat churches in it but only one good street, which remarkably broad:—the rest are generally very narrow, and abound in beggars, who are extremely troublesome to travellers.

At sun-set we returned on board, well satisfied with the reception we had met with; and on the following day, the same party dined at Mr. Rooney's, a Gentleman in partnership with the English house of Mess. Little and Co. and to whom Captain Parker had been introduced by means of a letter from Sir Andrew Hammond. From a desire of making me acquainted with some Spanish ladies, Mr. Rooney engaged us in an afternoon's walk to visit Captain Adams, the Captain of the Port, and there I had the pleasure of meeting with several females. They seemed highly delighted with my hat and dress, and took singular satisfaction in

repeatedly taking off the former, and in examining my coat, which was half uniform. My having formerly travelled in Spain, and consequently having acquired a tolerable knowledge of their language procured me unusual attention, such as I shall ever remember with pleasure, though mingled with a degree of regret, arising from the improbability of my ever revisiting a country, in which I had the happiness to meet; with unlimited kindness.

The next morning we were presented with salads, fruits, lemons, &c. from different inhabitants of the town, who seemed to vie with each other in presenting us with those salutary refreshments.

The following day was fixed for an excursion to *Puerto Oratava*. Accompanied by Governor King, his lady, our first Lieutenant, and a young gentleman belonging to Mess. Little and Co. we went on shore at daybreak, and after breakfasting mounted our buricos or donkeys. The roads (hardly deserving that appellation) were rugged indeed; in some places the stones were sufficiently out of the ground to afford us seats, but the good humour which reigned amongst our party made ample amends for any trifling difficulty of that nature—and indeed little difficulties make social excursions more interesting.

Our first halting-place was a small hut, where Mr. Malcolme, a gentleman belonging to the same house, had taken care to provide us with biscuits, wine, &c. Having refreshed ourselves we continued our ride until *meridian*, when it was judged prudent for us to tarry during the heat of the day. Here Mr. Malcolme had also procured a cold collation, or a first dinner.—Two sultry hours having passed away very cheerfully; we again mounted our buricos, and, upon my making use of the Spanish method of quickening their pace, my animal set off on full speed, left the muleteer staring with astonishment, and poor me rolling down a steep hill; but perceiving the party, who had not got up with us, coming rapidly to my assistance, fearful left they should gallop over me, I arose as quickly as possible, and scrambling to a stone sat myself down upon it, and

laughed as heartily as I ever recollected to have done in my life. This little accident let my muleteer into the secret of my having understood the chief of his conversation with the other, who had the honour of attending my companion Mrs. King, which was "his inclination to stop at all the *posadoes*, or public houses, we had passed by."

At a short distance from this laughable scene, we were met by Mr. Little, who very politely conduced us to his town residence, where he had prepared a most splendid entertainment replete with every delicacy of the season. The fruits and vegetables were luxuries indeed to us, who had been accustomed to little choice during our passage.

From this town, on the same evening, one of our officers Lieutenant Rye, accompanied by Mr. Burton the botanist, took his departure for the Peak of Teneriffe, in which enterprize, notwithstanding the great danger pointed out to him at that season of the year, he was fortunate enough to succeed, and arrived at its summit.

On his return to England, his excursion was published; and I recommend it to the perusal of my readers; yet must at the same time take the liberty of observing, that although he has been minute as to particulars that tend to the information and benefit of such as may hereafter wish to visit the Peak, he has been too diffident in mentioning the extreme fatigues and difficulties which he underwent in the accomplishment of his wishes. The inhabitants spoke of his courage in terms of astonishment—too much cannot be said in praise of his perseverance, it is sufficient of itself to convince us that no difficulties are insuperable to the prudent and brave, and at the same time brings to my remembrance the following lines of Mr. Rowe:

"The wise and prudent conquer difficulties
"By daring to attempt them: Sloth and folly
"Shiver and shrink at fight of toil and hazard,
"And make th' impossibility they fear."

We were the next morning regaled with a breakfast equally profuse and delicate as the preceding meals. The greater part of that day being too sultry to walk, we were much indebted to the polite and respectful attention of the aforementioned gentlemen, who, studying our amusement, proposed an evening excursion to their country residence, situated at a short distance from the town. It is am small neat house, standing upon a hill, commanding an extensive view of the Bay of Santa-Cruz; the garden is enclosed with myrtle hedges, the walks were shaded with vines, and lofty lemon trees, and the parterre before the door arranged with pots of most beautiful carnations.

Having comfortably regaled ourselves, we returned back to tea and supper; retired early, and arose at four the next morning. After breakfasting we set out upon our return; at *eleven* we stopped to partake of some refreshments, and then proceeded *two* leagues farther, when we again alighted to avoid the intense heat; during which time Mrs. King and myself strolled to several little huts. The inhabitants were surprized at seeing strangers of our sex alone; but their astonishment soon subsided when I spoke a few words to them in Spanish;—from this moment pleasure was visible in every countenance; in proof of which, although their spot of ground was small, their kindness induced them to present us with some sage, and an egg apiece—the *little* all they had to proffer us; and I make no doubt but we were remembered by them the remainder of the day; nay I will even think they have not yet forgotten us.

Returning to our party, and finding all ready, we remounted, and after riding a few miles our English friends took leave of us. Their uniform attention has induced me to name them so often in this narrative——the only return I shall ever have it in my power to make them.

It may afford a smile to my readers to add, that, after it was found out that I could speak Spanish, I entered into conversation with my muleteer, which made him so proud of his charge, that, previous to our entering any town or village, he, with great form, requested me to fit up right, and

then spread my hair very curiously over my shoulders.— Poor fellow! could I be displease with his request; since it arose, without doubt, from a desire of making me appear to the greatest advantage?

Thus, by the favour of a serene evening, we returned to Mr. Rooney's, who wished us to sleep on shore, as the wind began to blow fresh, and the surf rendered it very unpleasant for us to go on-board; but having resolved prior to my leaving England, to bear every difficulty, if possible, determined to start none, I, with my good friends, took leave; and, after a few lifts over a heavy sea, we reached the wished-for vessel.

The next morning we paid a visit to the Spanish Lieutenant Governor's Lady, who introduced us to several ladies. The following day Mr. Rooney and Mr. Malcolme favoured us with their company on-board. After dinner they took leave of us, and shortly after we received from them a present of some lemons, and such other fruit as they deemed most acceptable for our intended voyage.

On the 24th of April we attempted to sail; but unfortunately the anchor of our vessel hooked the cable of a Spanish brig, owing to a strong tide; which broke the window, and carried away part of our quarter gallery. This accident detained us until the following day, when we sailed with a fresh and favourable breeze, and saw the Peak many leagues distant.

CHAP. II.

Ceremony of crossing the Equator—arrive at St. Jago—description of the Portugueze inhabitants—a violent gale—see the island of Saint Trinidad—a description of that island—arrive at Simon's Bay—set out for the Cape.

ON the 27th of April we got into the Trade-Winds. On the 29th we crossed the line, and paid the usual forfeit to Amphitrite and Neptune. Those sailors who had crossed the line before burlesqued the new-comers as much as possible, calling themselves Neptune and Amphytrite with their aquatic attendants. They have the privilege to make themselves merry; and those who have never been in South latitudes purchase their freedom by a small quantity of liquor. But the sailor or soldier who has none to give is the object of their mirth; and, the more restive he is, the more keen they are to proceed to business. A large tub of salt water, with seat over it, is placed in the fore-part of the ship, on which the new comer is reluctantly put—the seat is drawn from under him; and, when rising from the tub, several pails of water are thrown over him—he is then pushed forward amongst his laughing shipmates, and is as busy as the rest to get others in the same predicament.

The *first* day of May we expected to make the island of *Sal*—saw many porpoises, and, having had moderate breezes, arrived at St. Jago on the *third*. Being advised not to go on shore, we waited till we had procured abundance of all kinds of re refreshments; in particular, fruit, poultry, and goats; all of which articles were very scarce at Teneriffe, owing to its being so early in the Spring. The turkeys upon this island are remarkably fine, and would do credit to the plumpest that Norfolk could produce.

The ships then in Port Praya Bay were The Phoenix and Lord Camden East Indiamen; and, during our short stay, The Dutton, Albemarle, Barrington, and Active transports, arrived. Here we had the pleasure of becoming acquainted with Captain Patterson, of the New South Wales corps, and his Lady. We treated ourselves with cocoa-nuts and pine-apples, of which there are great abundance in this island. The Portugueze inhabitants have chiefly been defaulters in their native country; and the fallowness of their complexions proves what a sickly climate they have to buffet with. The black inhabitants are robust, and much inclined, like their masters, to take ad vantage of strangers; nay, I have been credibly informed, that they make no ceremony of cheating one another, whenever a suitable opportunity occurs. They are fond of old cloaths in their exchange for fruit, &c. and a shabby suit of old black is esteemed twice as valuable as any other colour.

We left this island on the 6th of May—had fresh breezes and violent heat until the 10th. Many sharks were caught, and the tails of the youngest of them eaten by the men: porpoises were seen rolling about with great force all around us.

We experienced much heat between the trade-winds, until the 19th, when, for a change, we were overtaken by a most violent squall of wind, attended with thunder, lightning, and rain, and the ship pitched very much.

The greatest inconvenience I suffered from these squalls was the necessity we were under of having in the dead lights, which are strong shutters wedged in to prevent a following sea from breaking into the ship. The noise made by the working of the vessel, and the swinging of the glass shades that held our lights, rendered the cabin very dismal.

This squally weather continued, with little variation, until the 23^{d} , when we spoke with a French ship, bound to Port L'Orient. They had nothing to dispose of; but sent us a fine turtle, which was a great treat to those who were fond of the variety of good food it contains.

On the 29th we saw the island of Saint Trinidad, which appears a very beautiful little spot: Captain D'Auvergne, in a cutter belonging to Commodore Johnstone's fleet, was cast away here. I am told they made themselves quite comfortable, as they saved great part of their stores; and, having some garden feeds, they grew up quickly, and cabbages thrived particularly well. This, island is about nine miles in circumference, well wooded, and watered with fertile valleys; and the English colony, who were the only inhabitants, left it with regret. We saw a great quantity of birds hovering all around; and, as they are not often disturbed by man, they range in native freedom. The sea-birds have plenty of food, from the variety of fish, particularly the Flying-fish, which is constantly tormented both by Bonetas and Dolphins, and the birds darting upon them, in their flying efforts to escape.

On the 30th the weather was very squally, and the sea rough. We saw pintado-birds, and others usual in these latitudes; also Mother Cary's Chickens—small birds, that fly very fast, and are not unlike the swallow: they are seldom seen but in rough weather; and sailors say they are the attendants upon storms—of course they are not partial to them.

This weather continued several days; once we were obliged, on account of the roughness of the sea, to dine on the deck in the cabin; but these little difficulties were scarcely felt, the party being in good humour,

and our spirits well supported by good broth, roast pig, and plumb-puddings—thanks to my caterer, who had so well provided for so long a voyage.

With little variation, we sailed till the 19th of June, when land was once more in sight. At ten the next morning the *Bellows Rock* opened to view; and on the 21ft, at *four* in the afternoon, we arrived, at *Simon's Bay*; this being the Bay where ships generally lay during the winter-season, as the sudden hurricanes, which sweep round the mountains at this period, make the Bay at Cape town too dangerous to risk a vessel at.

An officer was sent on shore, to inform the Commandant of our having put in for refreshment: he shortly returned, and brought us word, that every thing wanted should be readily supplied; and the next morning the Commandant paid us a visit on board.

Governor King also wrote to Mr. Peter de Witt, a merchant at the Cape of Good Hope; in consequence of which he waited upon us, and brought with him two carriages to conduct us to the Cape; the one a chaise, drawn by four, the other a kind of waggon, drawn by eight horses.

On the 23d, eager for a little shore amusement, we rose early, and, after breakfasting upon rolls, and such fruit as we had procured from the Bay, Lieutenant Governor King, Mrs. King, our first Lieutenant, Captain Parker, and myself, went on shore—the fort saluting with fifteen guns, and our ship returning the compliment with an equal number.

CHAP. III.

Set off for Cape Town—stop at Falsebay—meet a party of Soldiers—reflections —arrive at the Cape—Mrs. De Witt—shipwreck of the Guardian—Lieutenant Riou—a Cape-breakfast—observations on the town and its inhabitants.

I COULD not help being well pleased at finding myself once more safe landed. We loitered some time at Mr. Brank's, where we met Colonel Burrington, of the Bengal army, who was then at the Cape, for the re-establishment of his health. In a short time we set off for Cape Town, Captain King and Mr. De Witt in the chaise and four, and the rest of us in the carriage drawn with eight horses, somewhat resembling a covered waggon, except having seats within, arid little gaudy decorations.

The road was excessively bad, and the carriage not being hung with springs rendered travelling most joltingly disagreeable. After having rode about eight or nine miles, we arrived at a house situated in the bottom of *False Bay*, called *Mussleburg*: this house, when first built, was intended by the Governor and Council, as a temporary residence, being situated in a good fishing neighbourhood, and as a place of refreshment to travellers

passing to and from Cape-Town and Simon's Bay.—After the jolting of our vehicle, we had reason to think it a place of relief; and when we arrived there, we found several officers, with their wives and children, at dinner. We had also met several different parties of soldiers on the road; upon enquiry, we found it was a regiment marching to Simon's Bay, in order to be embarked on board a Dutch Indiaman bound to Batavia; there having been recently at that place a great mortality amongst all classes of Europeans, said to be caused by the Malays, the natives of Java, having poisoned the waters.

In relating this circumstance, I cannot but feel myself deeply affected, as it brings to my mind the recollection of similar embarkations that have lately taken place for those cruel islands, where so many brave men have fallen victims to that worst of all distempers, the Yellow Fever—a distemper, the fatal effects of which I have so heavily experienced, as it has deprived me of a beloved husband, the tender partner of my life, and my only support in the time of trouble and affliction. When I reflect: on his many virtues, and on the irreparable loss which I have unexpectedly sustained, I cannot help saying, with General Draper, on a similar occasion :

"Why to such worth was no duration given ?"
"Because perfection is the choice of Heaven."

But to proceed—During our ride, we noticed some remarkable small birds with beautiful plumage; but which are not known to sing: their chief support is supposed to be from a flower that grows plentifully in the neighbourhood, somewhat resembling a tulip; from this flower issues a juice equal in sweetness and thickness to syrup; and, when boiled, it is good for complaints in the breast, and also for young children.

The remainder of the road from Mussleburg to Cape Town is, in general, very pleasant; numerous villas being interspersed on both sides of the road. In particular, as you round Table Hill, towards Cape Town, the rising appearance of Constantia, where the famous wine is made, has a

wonderful effect upon the traveller; the situation of it being under the Table-Mountain, about three miles from Musselburg, and ten from Cape Town.

At six o'clock in the evening we reached the end of our journey; most completely jostled and tired. We were all lodged at Mrs. de Witt's, mother to the above mentioned gentleman, well known by the English frequenting the Cape: her bulk, comparatively speaking, was nearly equal to that of a Dutch man of war, and, being remarkably low in stature, her size was rendered still more conspicuous. She received us with much complacency, and immediately procured a little cargo of bread and butter, which I believe we all relished very much, having had no overplus in that article during our passage. The countenance of the good lady was pleasing, her manner engaging, and her motherly attention, during our short *séjour* at her habitation, such as I shall ever remember with the greatest degree of satisfaction. Miss J. de Witt did not make her appearance that evening; the eldest daughter was not very conversible; and a young lady, a relation, was remarkably bashful. Thus situated, we were obliged to amuse ourselves with our own private remarks, until supper was ready; a meal which, in this town, is distinguished for substantial dishes; and, what is always most welcome to voyagers, plenty of vegetables, which are as sweet as they can possibly be; for the situation of this climate is so happy, that all European and most tropical fruits and vegetables grow as well as in their native soils.

On the 24th of June, after a good night's repose, I arose particularly thankful to Providence for His protection; and offered up my daily supplication for the health of the affectionate ties I had left in England. Curiosity then directed my steps to a window, whence I beheld the small remains of his Majesty's ship the Guardian, commanded by Lieutenant Riou, an officer conspicuous for presence of mind in the most imminent danger, and for feelingly recommending his mother and sisters to the notice of his honourable employers. By dint of the greatest exertion he brought his ship to the Cape, and saved the lives of those of the crew

who remained with him: as a reward for his services, he has since been made a post-captain. To avoid as much as possible any disagreeable reflections which might arise from the idea of a probability of our sharing the fate of the above vessel (as the Gorgon was the first ship commissioned for the relief of the colony, after the fatal loss of the Guardian), I hastened to my companions, and was, for the first time, surprized with a Cape breakfast, which certainly merits many encomiums: it is customary to arrange out the table as for dinner, except its being covered with all sorts of fruit; against each person is placed a knife, a plate, and a napkin; thus seated, the lady of the house makes tea and coffee at a side-table, which the slaves hand round to the company.

The day being very rainy, and our baggage advancing slower than we had done, it was mutually agreed to remain at home. We Were visited by Mynheer Van Graaffe, the Governor, who was at that time about to resign; also by Colonel Burrington and other Gentlemen.

A description of Cape Town having repeatedly been given by authors of knowledge and taste; I only intend, with submission to my readers, to commit to paper my own slender remarks on the various objects which engaged my attention.

The town I thought both clean and pleasant; its environs afford several delightful rides: the road to the Company's house, by the sea-side, brought to my recollection one from Puerta Colonela, at Leghorn, round the Lazarettos, to Monti Negro. I was struck with the uncommon dexterity of the Cape-drivers, who manage eight horses in hand, and turn the corners with the greatest swiftness. The carriages used for these excursions are entirely open, and consist, some of two, and others of four seats.

In this town there are no public amusements, nor any particular promenades, excepting the Governor's garden, at the end of which there is a very large aviary. There are not any public shops, as in other towns:

the merchants dispose of their goods, both by wholesale and retail, in the following method: if you wish to make any purchase you send for a large book, upon the leaves of which are pasted patterns of edgings, dimities, silks, muslins, &c. with the prices annexed; and if you make any large purchase, you go and view the different articles in the parlours. Butcher, baker, &c. are all equally private; in fact, the most pleasing sight is in the market-place at day-break, when the slaves, mostly two by two, bring their baskets by the means of poles on their shoulders. Ostrich feathers are very plentiful. There is also every sort of fruit in great abundance; that which was most remarkable to me was the rose-apple, not having met with it in any of my former travels in France, Spain, and Italy: there is a faintness in the taste of this apple which few palates would approve of; but the odoriferous smell it disperses around renders it very acceptable when placed amongst other fruit.

The women of the Cape are remarkable for their bulk; which I am apt to attribute to their going without stays, and fitting much in the house with their feet continually lifted on a chair. They have good teeth, and in general their features are pleasing; after marriage they are totally neglectful of their persons.

Neither hat nor bonnet is fashionable amongst them; high caps, with cloaks or shawls, are worn in their stead; the latter they have frequent opportunities of receiving, in return for the hospitality shewn to our British East India ships.

The churches at Cape Town are open at eight in the morning, when the genteel classes go in sedan chairs, which are usually kept in the entrance of their houses.

CHAP. IV.

Visit Colonel Gordon.—Arrival of the Neptune.—Receive intelligence from New South Wales.—Arrival of Captain Patterson and his Lady.—A Cape Dance.—A Hottentot Song.—Visit Mr. Vandrian's Brewery.—Prepare for our Departure.—Set sail.

OUR baggage arrived the next day, and we were busily employed, having engaged ourselves to dine with Colonel Gordon. The hour of dinner was two o'clock; the Colonel obligingly sent his carriage for us, which was very acceptable, the weather being intensely hot, and the pavement intolerably bad. The Villa where the Colonel resides is situated a few miles from the town, on the summit of a hill commanding a most pleasant and extensive view by sea and land. The good Colonel is already well known for his Museum, and Manuscripts relative to Natural History, and his many enterprising journeys to the interior parts of that country; for which he was eminently qualified on account of his extensive knowledge of the language, manners, and customs of the Hottentots, by whom he is almost adored.—The respect and regard which I bear to this family forbids my passing over in silence the polite and friendly attention I received

from Mrs. Gordon, who is a Swiss lady, and who most agreeably acquiesces in whatever may tend to render those comfortable who have the happiness of being ranked amongst her acquaintance. After what I have said, it will easily be supposed that their children are taught the same engaging attention to strangers.

On the next day, the Neptune and the Lady Juliana anchored in False Bay; both of them had been ships sent out by Government with Convicts and Stores to the colony of New South Wales, and, after having fulfilled their contract with Government, were permitted to go to China, to take in a freight of Teas on account of the East-India Company. We did not receive any favourable account of the place we were shortly going to visit; on the contrary, we learnt from the commander of the Neptune, Mr. D. Trail, that, on his leaving it, there were only fix months provisions in the Settlement, at full allowance; we also learnt the disappointment of the Governor and Officers of that Colony at the non-arrival of the Guardian: —in short, every circumstance served to assure us how anxiously they waited the appearance of our happy bark: and made Captain Parker as anxious to relieve them.

About this time the arrival of the Britannia and Albemarle transports was announced: this circumstance afforded us considerable satisfaction, as we were in expectation of again meeting with Mrs. Patterson, the Lady of Captain Patterson of the new corps. This gentleman once accompanied Colonel Gordon in his excursion up the country. An unexpected meeting with those of our kingdom is always agreeable to travellers: it proved so to us; and the more especially as it chiefly consisted of those who were engaged upon services, similar in their nature with our intended voyage.

But, though surrounded with novelties and amusements, I could not forget the perilous situation of my husband, who was gone to bring the ship round to Table Bay, the winter-season rendering it very unsafe on account of the Monsoons which are prevalent at that time of the year;

but, thanks to the Supreme Being! the ship appeared in sight on Sunday the 17th of July, and Captain Parker came on shore to dinner. We received another invitation from Mrs. Gordon, and accordingly went in the afternoon to Green Point to tea; after which ,we returned home to supper, and the evening concluded with dancing, which they are remarkably fond of at this town; particularly a dance somewhat like the *Allemande*, excepting the figure, which is not variable, and the long continuance of turning round: it is surprizing that the ladies are not giddy with the swiftness of the motion; for it would certainly turn any person's head unaccustomed to it.

The next morning we again visited the hospitable villa, where we were regaled in a manner that bespoke the attention of the providers: during a desert that would have gained applause from the nicest Epicure, singing was introduced, in the course of which we were favoured with a *Hottentot* song from the Colonel: to describe any part of it would be impossible; but, without a wish to offend, I must say that it appeared to me the very reverse of all that is musical or harmonious; and the Colonel, who gave us strict charge not to be frightened with what we were to hear, seemed to enjoy the laughter it occasioned. Different songs having gone round, the Colonel's son amused us with several pieces upon the organ; and shortly after we were agreeably surprized with the bands belonging to the regiments without: nor did this conclude the amusement; for, after drinking coffee, we danced until our return into town, when the same music accompanied us, to prevent, I suppose, our spirits from drooping at the thought of leaving such good company.

The next day Captain Patterson and his Lady arrived from False Bay; who, fortunately for our little parties, remained at the house in which we resided. Through the friendly introduction of this gentleman I became one of the party at Mr. Vandrian's; and I cannot but acknowledge the polite attention I received from this family during my short acquaintance.

On the 24th, a select party of us dined at Colonel Gordon's, where we met Colonel Burrington[2], Major De Lisle, with some other Dutchmen, and Mr. Pitt, a relation of Lord Chatham, who was fortunately saved out of the wreck of the Guardian. We were occupied in feasting and singing till the evening, when we returned home, and found the company waiting for us. Upon our arrival, the dances immediately began; and, after eating an excellent supper, we retired to our apartments; but, from the coolness of the night, the moon shining delightfully, and the music parading the streets, we were unwilling to consign ourselves to "dull oblivion."

The next day we visited Mr. Vandrian, at the Brewery; where we met with a welcome reception: the house and gardens are very pleasant; the brewery is an extensive building, situated between Cape Town and False Bay, very near the latter; and, strange to say, not far distant from Paradise! a spot of ground so called, from the situation; and about which the Silver Tree grows in great perfection: neither is it far from Constantia.

The Governor, having rode out that morning, stopped and joined the party, who were then at dinner; and, the evening proving rainy, we returned with him in his *voiture d'Hollande.*

The following day we were busily employed in getting our cloaths ready for sea, and in sending them on-board, as we expected to embark that afternoon; however, the business of the ship not being actually accomplished, we slept on shore that night; and on the ensuing morning, the 31ft of July, we all repaired on-board, escorted to the key by the greater part of Mr. de Witt's family: Mr. Peter de Witt accompanied us on-board, and saw us under weigh.

CHAP. V.

The voyage continued—a melancholy accident; singular instance of fraternal affection—death of Lieutenant Ross—a dreadful storm—the falling of a ball of fire—observations and reflections.

DURING our residence at the Cape, great care had been taken amply to provide for the remainder of our voyage; the crew were well supplied with fresh provisions, and we returned to our little sea-amusements in peace and tranquillity of mind.

With my companion Mrs. King, and the society of the ship, I seldom, if ever, found any thing unpleasant, except the pitching of the ship, which motion proved very disagreeable to me to the end of our voyage.

We proceeded favourably on our haying, in general, good weather, and brisk winds, until the the 7th of September, when we met with the following melancholy occurrences. At 6 o'clock, P. M. a carpenter fell overboard; the cutter was immediately sent to rescue him, if possible, from the merciless waves; but to no effect, the sea running high, and the

wind blowing fresh: one dismal hour had scarcely elapsed when the cutter returned, and, while hoisting it in, another poor man fell overboard: the cutter was again sent out; but, alas ! the earnest attempts of the sailors to save the life of their comrade unfortunately proved abortive; his brother, who was in the boat, had been rescued by the deceased from a similar accident only a few months before; his gratitude to, and affection for, this brother, lost before him, drove him into a delirium; in which dreadful state he continued for some time. A dismal sky and a deluge of rain concluded this disastrous and eventful night. The ensuing morning was equally stormy as the preceding evening, and the weather continued much the same until the 11th, when we saw the Coast of New Holland.

In the evening of this day we had the misfortune of losing Mr. George Ross, midshipman, after a severe illness since leaving the Cape. This young gentleman was the son of Lieutenant Ross of the Navy, and brought up at Portsmouth Academy; he was a very promising youth, and his death was sincerely regretted by all his shipmates, and the superior officers of the ship, for his attention to his duty. The same melancholy evening died suddenly James Key, a seaman. The ensuing day the bodies of the deceased were committed to the deep, after having performed the usual funeral service.

On the 12th we had fresh gales, with favourable weather, which continued until the 17th, when we came in sight of Mount Dromedary, so called from the familiarity of its shape. This day we were engaged to dine with the officers in the wardroom: under the expectation of arriving shortly at Port Jackson, the time passed away very sociably; but a sudden squall and perverse, winds coming on, deprived us of the satisfaction of reaching the wished-for haven for three long days—at least they appeared so to every one of us; when we reflected that the colony stood in such great need of the supplies with which we were so plenteously stored; however, with patience, the sovereign remedy of all evils, and the travellers best support, I passed the time in adjusting the cabin, and in other preparations prior to our going on shore.

The ensuing day, being Sunday, was pleasant and serene, as if to afford us an opportunity of imploring a continuance of the Divine Protection, which we had hitherto experienced in a singular degree.

On Monday the 19th, at noon, we were in latitude 35°. 15" . S. and longitude 149°. 26". E. from the meridian of Greenwich, when a point of land appeared in sight, called by Captain Cook *Long Nose*, on account of its pointed shape. At sun-set the hovering clouds seemed to forebode the event of the evening; at eight came on a tremendous thunder-squall, attended with most dreadful lightning and constant heavy rains, which, continued upwards of an hour and a half. About *half* past *eight* the lightning struck the pole of the main-topgallant-mast, shivered it and the head of the mast entirely to pieces; thence it communicated to the main-topmast, under the hounds, and split it exactly in the middle, above *one third* down the mast; it next took the main-mast by the main-yard, on the larboard side, and in a spherical direction struck it in six different places; the shock electrified every person on the quarter-deck; those who were unfortunately near the main-mast were knocked down, but recovered in a few minutes: this continued until about *half* past *ten*, when a most awful spectacle presented itself to the view of those on deck; whilst we who were below felt a sudden shock, which gave us every reason to fear that the ship had struck against a rock; from which dreadful apprehension we were however relieved upon being informed that it was occasioned by a ball of fire which fell at that moment. The lightning also broke over the ship in every direction: it was allowed, to be a dismal resemblance of a besieged garrison; and, if I might hazard an opinion, I should think it was the effect of an earth quake. The sea ran high, and seemed to foam with anger at the feeble resistance which our lone bark occasioned. At midnight the wind shifted to the westward, which brought on fine clear weather, and I found myself once more at leisure to anticipate the satisfaction which our arrival would diffuse throughout the colony; for, owing to the loss of his majesty's ship The Guardian, the governor and officers were reduced to such scanty allowance, that, in addition to the fatigues and hardships which they had experienced when the colony was in its in-

fant state, they were obliged, from a scarcity of provisions, to toil through the wearisome day with the anxious and melancholy expectations of increasing difficulties. What then could afford us more heart-felt pleasure than the near event of relieving them? for it is surely happiness to succour the distressed; a satisfaction we fully experienced. Our desire of reaching the colony was also increased by the reflection, that the greater part of the marine officers were to return with us once more to visit Old England, and to render happy such of their friends and relations as had lingered out their absence with many an aching heart. With what anxiety did they await the ship's arrival! with what eagerness did they hasten on-board! The circumstances are too deeply engraven on my memory ever to be eradicated; but, alas! my pen is utterly incompetent to the talk of describing our feelings on this occasion.

CHAP. VI.

Arrive at Port Jackson—Governor King and Captain Parker wait upon Governor Phillip with the dispatches—Account of ships arrived in the harbour; and of a dreadful mortality which had taken place onboard the transports—Interesting particulars respecting the propriety of establishing a whale-fishery on the coast of New Holland.

AT sun-rise we saw the coast of New Holland, extending from South West to North West, distant from the nearest part about nine or ten miles. During the night we were driven to the Northward, and passed Port Jackson, the port to which we were bound; however, on the ensuing day, the 21ft, we arrived safe in the above harbour. As soon as the ship anchored several officers came on-board and, shortly after, Governor King, accompanied by Captain Parker, went on shore, and waited on his Excellency Governor Phillip, with the government-dispatches: they were welcome visitors; and I may safely say, that the arrival of our ship diffused universal joy throughout the whole settlement.

We found lying here his Majesty's armed tender The Supply, with her lower masts both out of repair; they were so bad, that she was obliged to have others made of the wood of the country, which was procured with great difficulty, several hundred trees being cut down without finding any sufficiently sound at the core. Lieutenant Bowen, with four sail of transports under his direction, was arrived here; also The Mary-Anne, a transport-ship, that had been sent out alone, with only women-convicts and provisions on-board.

A dreadful mortality had taken place on-board of most of the transports which had been sent to this country; the poor miserable objects that were landed died in great numbers, so that they were soon reduced to at least *one third* of the number that quitted England.

"Their appearance," to use the words of Captain Parker, " will be ever fresh in my memory. I visited the hospital, and was surrounded by mere skeletons of men—in every bed, and on every side, lay the dying and the dead. Horrid spectacle! it makes me shudder when I reflect, that it will not be the last exhibition of this kind of human misery that will take place in this country, whilst the present method of transporting these miserable wretches is pursued; for, the more of them that die, the more it redounds to the interest of the ship-owners and masters, who are paid so much a-head by government, for each individual, whether they arrive in the colony or not."

But to return to my narrative.—Or the a 5th, in consequence of the anniversary of his majesty's accession to the throne, his Excellency Governor Phillip gave a public dinner to all the army and navy officers in the colony. The Gorgon dressed ship as well as her scanty allowance of colours would permit; and, at the usual hour, fired twenty-one guns.

About this time, Mr. Melvin, master of The Britannia transport, arrived here; with this, and with several other gentlemen, Captain Parker held various conferences on the propriety of establishing a Whale-Fishery

on the Coast of New Holland. Minutes of these conferences were preserved by my husband; and, as they appear to me rather interesting, I shall take the liberty of inserting them in this place.

"Mr. Melvin gave it as his opinion that a very good Whale-Fishery might be established upon this coast; and that fish were infinitely more numerous than on the American. In his passage from Van Deiman's Land to Port Jackson, he asserted that he saw more shoals of spermaceti whales in the course of that voyage, than in any one of a great number which he had made in the South Whale-Fishery. This afternoon he sailed, upon experiment, accompanied by the William and Anne, Edward Bunker, master. The day after their leaving Port Jackson, they fell-in with a shoal of whales; the boats belonging to the two ships struck seven of them; but the wind blew so hard that each ship saved but one; and, in consequence of the weather, were obliged to return from the cruize.

As soon as the agreement between Government and the ships had ended, which was when they had landed their convicts and discharged their lading, the masters of them were at full liberty to proceed upon their owners' employ. Five of the number had permission from the East India Company to load with cotton at Bombay; the others, being fishery-ships, went out and returned frequently. During the time of our stay at Port Jackson, they saw abundance of fish; but, always meeting with tempestuous weather and a strong current setting to windward, their success was not adequate to their expectations. One of them, named the Matilda, took three fish, which yielded about thirty barrels of oil, and the master told me that it was in its quality more valuable, by *ten* pounds in the ton, than the oil which they procured on the coast of America. One of them gave me, a small keg of it, which I brought home with me as specimen. They also told me, that nothing but the fear of losing the time of their employers prevented them from continuing on this coast, for they had many good harbours to run into if need required; an advantage of considerable importance, as it enabled them always to have a good supply of water, which was not the case when fishing on the American coast: they

had also great relief from wild herbs gathered here, particularly that called Sweet Tea, which makes a very, pleasant and wholesome beverage. These, with other considerations, were sufficient to influence those employed in the Whale-Fishery to prefer this coast to the other, where they have no port to go into, as, by treaty, they are not to approach nearer than one hundred leagues of the shore: in consequence of which, their crew must be greatly infected with the scurvy, for want of that assistance which they can so plenteously meet with on the coast of New South Wales. They have also an opportunity of keeping their ships in much better repair, having harbours to go into when necessity required, whereas on the coast of America it is quite the reverse.

New Holland abounds in good harbours; we have thoroughly investigated the greater part of them, and there are many others at present but imperfectly known; yet, if a Whale-Fishery were once established, they would soon become familiar to us; and, if peculiar emoluments were granted to Ships that took fish on this coast in preference to that of America, great advantages might accrue to Government therefrom: the number of vessels which would be in that employ must greatly lessen the freight of transports, and give us continual opportunities of supplying the settlement at a moderate expense to government: it would also be an encouragement to settlers to go over; and until that takes place the maintaining the Colony of New South Wales will be a continually accumulating burthen to the mother-country. Were we to send settlers from England, with some little property of their own, and to give the men sufficient encouragement by allotting them ground, building them convenient houses, allowing them a certain number of convicts, giving them tools of husbandry, feeds of various kinds adequate to the number of acres in their possession, and victualling them and their men, for at least eighteen months, out of the public stores, at the expiration of which time they and their men were to provide for themselves—Were we to do these things, it might probably be able to support itself in a few years.

But to return to the Whale Fishery: it might be carried on by small vessels at the different harbours with which we are at present acquainted; if they contained casks enough, to hold the blubber which two or three Whales might produce, and were able to carry three or four Whale-Boats, they would be sufficiently large. When they took any fish, if it were not convenient to run for Port Jackson, let them make any of the other harbours, immediately boil down the oil, and then watch for the opportunity to proceed to sea again. It is to be observed, that, at the full and change of the Moon, the weather is very tempestuous and unsettled on this, coast, and also that there is a strong current always setting to windward; the harder it blows, the stronger it sets, and causes a turbulent, irregular, and very high sea. In the course of a season these small vessels would in all probability procure a sufficient quantity of oil to load such ships as should be sent from England to receive it; but, if any objection be made to small craft from the apprehension of convicts running away with them, let all the ships that Government take up belong to the Whale-fishery; let them sail from England in the Months of October, November, and December; and after having landed their stores, or whatever they may have brought out for Government, let them refit their ships and then proceed on the fishery, returning to Port Jackson when they want refreshments, or into any of the harbours with which we are acquainted. Lieutenant Bowen, of the Atlantic transport, discovered a bay, which, in honour to Sir John Jervis, he named after him. This bay has been since explored by Mr. Weatherhead, master of The Mary and Anne transport; who, in one of his cruizes after whales, was twice there, and has given me a draught of it.

There are two other ports known to the Northward of Port Jackson; the first is *Broken Bay*, which has been well surveyed by Captain Hunter, of his majesty's ship The Sirius; and is a very fine harbour, forming into different branches: one branch enters the river Hawkesbury; another runs to the Westward, and forms a fine piece of water, which has been named, by Governor Phillip, *Pittwater*. The next harbour to the Northward of this is Port Stephens, which has not been explored; but some of the fish-

ships have been close in with it, and make no doubt but that it is a very good port."

CHAP. VII.

Governor Phillip breakfasts on-board—visit Sidney Cove—go on-shore—short description of shrubs, birds, beasts, &c. of Botany Bay—excursion to, and description of Paramatta—visit the Governor.

BUT to return to my narrative,—On the 30th Governor Phillip did us the honour to breakfast on-board; so did also Mr. Collins, Judge Advocate; and Mr. Palmer, the Commissary. The conversation was very interesting; the one party anxiously making enquiries after their relatives in England; and the other attentively listening to the troubles and anxieties which had attended the improvements made in that distant colony. When the company returned on-shore, we amused ourselves with the pleasing novelties of *Sidney Cove*, so named by the Governor in honour of Lord Sidney: from this Cove, although it is very rocky, a most pleasant verdure proceeds on each side: the little habitations on shore, together with the canoes around us, and the uncommon manners of the natives in them, were more than sufficient amusements for that day; the next was occupied in receiving visits from several officers belonging to this settlement.

When we went on shore, we were all admiration at the natural beauties raised by the hand of Providence without expense or toil: I mean the various flowery shrubs, natives of this country, that grow apparently from rock itself. The gentle ascents, the winding valleys, and the abundance of flowering shrubs, render the face of the country very delightful. The shrub which most attracted my attention was one which bears a white flower, very much resembling our English Hawthorn; the smell of it is both sweet and fragrant, and perfumes the air around to a considerable distance. There is also plenty of grass, which grows with the greatest vigour and luxuriance, but which, however, as Captain Tench justly observes, is not of the finest quality, and, is found to agree better with horses and cows than with sheep.

In Botany Bay there are not many land fowls: of the larger sort, only eagles; were seen; of the smaller kind, though not numerous, there is a variety, from the size of a wren to that of a lark; all of which are remarkable for fine loud notes, and beautiful plumage, particularly those of the paroquet kind. Crows are also found here, exactly the same as those in England. But descriptions, infinitely, beyond the abilities of her who now, solely for the benefit of her little flock, is advised to set forth this narrative, having been already published, it would be presumptive to attempt any thing farther.

Our amusements here, although neither numerous nor expensive, were to me perfectly novel and agreeable: the fatherly attention of the good Governor upon all occasions, with the friendly politeness of the officers rendered our *séjour* perfectly happy and comfortable.

After our arrival here, Governor King and his Lady, resided on shore at Governor Phillip's, to whose house I generally repaired after breakfasting on-board: indeed it always proved a home for me; under this hospitable roof, I have often ate part of a Kingaroo, with as much glee as if I had been a partaker of some of the greatest delicacies of this metropolis, although latterly I was cloyed with them, and found them very disagree-

able. The presents of eggs, milk, and vegetables, which I was often favoured with from the officers on shore, were always very acceptable; and the precaution which Captain Parker had taken, previous to our departure from the Cape of Good Hope, made me fully contented with my situation.

Our parties generally consisted of Mrs. King, Mr. Johnson, and the Ladies who resided at the colony. We made several pleasant excursions up the Cove to the settlement called *Paramatta*. The numerous branches, creeks, and inlets, that are formed in the harbour of Port Jackson, and the wood that covers all their shores down to the very edge of the water, make the scenery beautiful: the North branch is particularly so, from the sloping of its shores, the interspersion of tufted woods, verdant lawns, and the small Islands, which are covered with trees, scattered up and down.

Upon our first arrival at *Paramatta*, I was surprised to find that so great a progress had been made in this new settlement, which contains above one thousand convicts, besides the military. There is a very good level road, of great breadth, that runs nearly a mile in a straight direction from the landing place to the Governor's house, which is a small convenient building, placed upon a gentle ascent, and surrounded by about a couple of acres of garden ground: this spot is called Rose-Hill. On both sides of the road are small thatched huts, at an equal distance from each other. After spending the day very agreeably at the Governor's, we repaired to the lodging which had been provided for us, where we had the comfort of a large wood fire, and found every thing perfectly quiet, although surrounded by more than one thousand convicts. We enjoyed our night's repose; and in the morning, without the previous aid of toilet or mirror, we set out for the Governor's to breakfast, and returned with the same party on the ensuing day.

This little excursion afforded us an opportunity of noticing the beautiful plumage of the birds in general, and of the *Emu* in particular, two of

which we discovered in the woods: their plumage is remarkably fine, and rendered particularly curious, as each hen has two feathers generally of a light brown; the wings are so small as hardly to deserve the name; and, though incapable of flying, they can run with such swiftness that a greyhound can with difficulty keep pace with them. The flesh tastes somewhat like beef.

In this cove there are some cool recesses, where with Captain Parker and the officers I have been many times times revived after the intense heat of the day, taking with us what was necessary to quench our thirst.

Here we have feasted upon Oisters just taken out of the sea;—the attention of our sailors, and their care in opening and placing them round their hats, in lieu of plates, by no means diminishing the satisfaction we had in eating them. Indeed, the Oisters here are both good and plentiful: I have purchased a large *three-quart* bowl of them, for a pound and a half of tobacco, besides having them opened for me into the bargain.

CHAP. VIII.

Description of the inhabitants of New South Wales—their huts—their extraordinary honesty—account of Banalong—an instance of his sensibility—observations on the Slave Trade.

THE inhabitants of New South Wales, both male and female, go without apparel. Their colour is of a dingy copper; their nose is broad and flat, their lips wide and thick, and their eyes circular. From a disagreeable practice they have of rubbing themselves with fish-oil, they smell so loathsome, that it is almost impossible to approach them without disgust.

The men in general appeared to be from five feet six to five feet nine inches high, are rather slender, but straight and well made: they have bushy beards, and the hair on their heads is stuck full with the teeth of fish, and bits of shells: they also ornament themselves with a fish-bone fastened in the gristle of the nose, which makes them appear really frightful; and are generally armed with a stick about a yard long, and a lance which they throw with considerable velocity.

The stature of the women is somewhat less than that of the men—their noses are broad, their mouths wide, and their lips thick. They are extremely negligent of their persons, and are filthy to a degree scarcely credible: their faces and bodies are besmeared with the fat of animals, and the salutary custom of washing seems entirely unknown to them.

Their huts or habitations are constructed in the most rude and barbarous manner: they consist of pieces of bark laid together somewhat in the form of an oven, with a small entrance at one end. Their sole residence, however, is not in these huts; on the contrary, they depend less on them for shelter than on the numerous excavations which are formed in the rocks by the washing of the sea; and it is no uncommon thing to see fifty or sixty of them comfortably lodged in one of these caves.

Notwithstanding the general appearance of the natives, I never felt the least fear when in their company, being always with a party more than sufficient for my protection. I have been seated in the woods with twelve or fourteen of them, men, women, and children. Had I objected, or shewn any disgust at their appearance, it would have given them some reason to suppose that I was not what they term their *damely*, or friend; and would have rendered my being in their company not only unpleasant, but unsafe.

Before I conclude my description of the natives, it is but justice to remark, that, in comparison with the inhabitants of most of the South-Sea Islands, they appear very little given to thieving; and their confidence in the honesty of one another is so great, that they will leave their spears arid other implements on the sea-shore, in full and perfect security of their remaining untouched.

From the treatment which I invariably experienced, I am inclined to think favourably of them; and fully believe that they would never injure our people, were they not first offended by them.

I cannot help observing that one of the men had a most engaging deportment; his countenance was pleasing, and his manners far beyond what I could possibly have expected. He was pleased to seat himself by me, changed names with Captain Parker, and took particular notice of the travelling knife and fork with which I was eating, and which I did myself the satisfaction to give him: he paid us a visit on-board the ensuing day, and shewed me that he had not lost my present, but made use of it, though somewhat awkwardly, whilst he demolished *two* or *three* pounds of the ship's pork.

The natives very frequently surrounded our vessel with their canoes. The women often held up their little ones, as if anxious to have them noticed by us. Sometimes, for the sake of amusement, I have thrown them ribbands and other trifles, which they would as frequently tye round their toes as any other part of their person.

Since my return to England, Banalong, one of the natives brought hither by Governor Phillip, came to see me. To describe the pleasure that overspread this poor fellow's countenance when my little girl presented to him the picture of her dear father, is impossible; it was then that the tear of sensibility trickled down his cheeks; he immediately recognized those features which will never be obliterated from my memory, and spoke, with all the energy of Nature, of the pleasing excursion which they had made together up the country. The above is one amongst many instances which I could relate of the natural goodness of their hearts; and I flatter myself that the time is hastening when they will no longer be considered as mere savages;—and wherefore should they?

"Fleecy locks, and black complexion,
"Cannot forfeit Nature's claim:
"Skins may differ, but affection
"Dwells in white and black the same."

CHAP. IX.

Preparations for our departure—repair on-board—set sail—discover Lord Howe's Island—Mount Lidgbird—Mount Gower—Three Kings Head Island—New Zealand—Cape Maria.

IN the course of this month (October), the Britannia transport anchored at this place, as did also the Admiral Barrington. The arrival of the latter afforded us the pleasure of seeing Mrs. Patterson again, whose company added much to the happiness of our little parties. The 25th was quite a busy day with us, it being the commemoration of His Majesty's accension to the throne: after amusing ourselves in the morning with looking at some ships which were busily employed in going out of the cove on a fishing expedition, and the *full dress* of our bark in compliment to the day, we repaired to the Governor's, whose unremitting attention to his guests rendered the day very agreeable, could we but have forgotten that it was the eve of our separation from Captain King and his Lady, whose affability had so much contributed to the pleasantry of our voyage thus far; and who, with Captain and Mrs. Patterson and several other military officers destined for Norfolk Island, set sail the next day, accompanied to the end

of the cove by the Governor, Judge Advocate, Captain Parker, and many others, who were anxious to be in their company as long as possible.

From the first of our arrival at Port Jackson, no time had been lost in preparing for our return to England. The embarkation of the marines, with their wives twenty five in number, and their children forty-seven, the caulking of the vessel, the clergyman of the New Corps coming on-board to read divine service for the last time, in short every thing began to remind me of our departure.

The ship, when ready for sea, was very differently stored to what it was when we left the Cape of Good Hope in July. In lieu of live stock and all kind of necessary provisions, our bark was now crowded with Kangaroos, Opposums, and every curiosity which that country produced. The quarter-deck was occupied with shrubs and plants, whilst the cabin was hung around with skins of animals. We had also procured a variety of birds. I was so fortunate as to bring to England a bronzed wing, and two pair of Norfolk Island pigeons; they are now alive and well, and are, I believe the only birds of the kind ever brought to this country.

The uniform attention which the Governor paid us during our short stay at the colony will always be remembered with singular satisfaction:—he may be justly called, like the Monarch of Great Britain, *"The Father of his People;"* and the Convict, who has forsaken the crimes that sent him to this country, looks up to him with reverence, and enjoys the reward of his industry in peace and thankfulness:—indeed, the kindness which we experienced from all around was such, that to have left the colony without a considerable degree of regret at parting from them would have shewn much ingratitude.

On the 17th of December, after supping at the Governor's, we repaired on-board, where every one was busily engaged in lashing and securing such things as were intended to be conveyed to England: it was

my occupation to look after the birds, and to place them in the safest and most convenient manner I possibly could.

18th. Anchor being weighed, we set sail at 7 o'clock P. M.

19th. Fresh breezes, and rather squally.

20th. We found ourselves at the North Head of Port Jackson, with fresh breezes. At midnight hard squalls from all parts of the compass.

21ft. At 4 A.M. heavy rain with lightning; at 6, violent squalls of wind, with a deluge of rain, severe thunder and lightning, the wind flying around the compass, and the ship labouring very much. At 10, we brought-to, the unsettled weather not permitting us to sail, except on the Southerly tack. At 8 P. M. the sea struck the vessel on the starboard quarter, which occasioned the plants on the deck to give way, the noise of which founded so dismal in the cabin, that I, who was at that time much oppressed with the sea-sickness, imagined that the fate of our bark was fast approaching.

22d. Still squally and much rain.

23d. The dead-lights in; every thing very wet from the quantity of rain which had fallen, and myself very sick.

24th. The weather moderate throughout the 24 hours.—On this day the ship's company were put to the allowance of *five* pints of water per day, as a necessary precaution against future accidents.

25th. Moderate and cloudy, with lightning to the Southward. On looking out for land, we saw Lord Howe's Island, a small spot discovered by Captain Wallis, and called, by the inhabitants of the Society Island, *Mopheа*; it lies in South latitude 16° 46", and West longitude 154° 8". At 5, P.M. we saw Mount *Lidgbird* S. E. by E. The Cutters were sent on

shore to seek for turtle; Lieutenant Ball having met with plenty when he first discovered this Island.

26th. We tacked the ship to the Northward of Lord Howe's Island. The Cutters returned without meeting with any success. There are goats, and a great number of brown birds about the size of our crows: the noise made by this bird is loud and unpleasant, and when dressed the flavour is strong and disagreeable.

27th. At 4 A.M. we saw Mount *Gower*, distance about 8 or 9 leagues N.N.E from *Ball's Pyramid*. At 6 A.M. we discovered Ring's Point. At noon we met with fresh breezes and squally weather which, continued with little variation to the end of the month.

On the 1ft day of January, 1792, about midnight, a large Meteor was seen in the South- West quarter, which took its course towards the North-West. Until the 5th instant, we had moderate weather, which afforded me the satisfaction of partaking in the cheerful parties of those who were within our wooden walls. Upon looking out for land, we discovered the *Three Kings Head* Island off the North end of New Zealand. At 4 we saw the Coast of New Zealand. At half part 4, saw Cape Maria, at which time Van Dieman's land bore S. by W. and the North Cape S. E. by E. distant 7 or 8 leagues. It is remarkable that the land from Cape Maria to the North Cape appears to be desolate, barren, and rocky, without the least verdure or tree, excepting on the summit of a hill over *Sandy Bay* where there appear *five* or *six*.

CHAP. X.

The voyage continued—discover a number of Ice-islands—description of them—singular story of a Shark—with an anecdote relative thereto.

I shall not here trouble my readers with the regular dates and little variations customary in these distant latitudes; but simply notice the weather, which was mostly fresh breezes, hazy, and squally—splitting of sails, passing rock-weed, sea-weed, and such like occurrences, met with by voyagers in general.

On the 14th. we saw several whales, much rock-weed, and birds of different sorts.

16th. Cloudy, with a heavy swell from N.E. Saw a number of silver birds.

17th. Observed a curious porpoise, with a white bill and under-jaw, also a number of brown-winged birds around the ship.

18th. Fresh gales and squally; passed a number of porpoises.

19th. At 4 P.M. the wind shifted suddenly with a heavy squall from N.N.E, to W.S.W. and continued so the remainder of the night.

20th. The same uncomfortable weather, with a long Westerly swell. Saw several whales. This weather continued with little variation during the remainder of the month.

The beginning of February, we had frequent squalls and heavy seas, with rain, hail, and sleet.

On the 7th, we discovered *Terra del Fuego*, and *York Minster*, bearing N.E. by N. distant about 7 or 8 leagues.

8th. Fresh breezes and hazy; York Minster bore N.N.W. ¼ W. 8 or 9 leagues.—In the afternoon of the same day, the central Isle of *Il de Fonzo* bore N.N.W. ¾ W. 8 or 9 leagues. At 4, land was seen at the mast-head, supposed to be the Island *Diego*. The extreme land to the N.W. ½ W. was supposed to be *Cape Horn*, and that to the Eastward *Barnwell Islands*. At ½ past 5, the land supposed *Cape Horn* bore W.N.W. 6 or 7 leagues.

The 12th was thick and foggy, with rain and fresh breezes. We saw albertrosses, penguins, and apparently some land-birds supposed to come from Saint George's or Falkland Islands.

14th. We had almost a calm, saw some land-birds, and caught one which was rather larger than a full-sized pigeon. Passed Willis's Island, South Georgia, East 125 leagues.

16th. Discovered penguins and various other birds. The sea ran very high, and a hard gale struck the ship violently.

17th. The same blustering weather, with increasing gales. Saw several seals, penguins, and porpoises, whales and sea-weed.

The ensuing morning, at 4 o'clock, several Ice-islands appeared in sight. By the advice of Captain Parker I arose to partake of this uncommon *spectacle.* The course of one hour brought *seven* to our view, bearing E. by N. to N.N.W. distance from the nearest *three* leagues. From this time until 10 o'clock several ice-islands were seen. In order to support my drooping spirits, I retired for a short time to strengthen my resolution, a precaution by no means unnecessary, as I could not help reflecting on the number of navigators who had been arrested and frozen to death in the midst of these tremendous masses; it was in this manner that the brave Sir Hugh Willoughby was lost, with all his crew, in 1553, and in like manner Lord Mulgrave in the year 1773 was caught in the ice, and nearly experienced the same unhappy fate.

If it were possible for voyagers to divest themselves of the horror which the eventful expectation of change must ever occasion; the view is at once both beautiful and picturesque, even to the most incurious eye: the forms assumed by the ice are extremely pleasing and grotesque; the water which dashes against the ice freezes into a variety of forms, and almost into every shape which the imagination can frame.

The novelty of the sight engaged the attention of every one on-board. About 7 o'clock we beheld no less than *fifteen* of these tremendous islands at one time, which obliged us to haul our wind, and bear up frequently in order to sail clear of them. Between the hours of 8 and 10 we passed *nine* more, and at that time a large body or field of ice appeared from North to W.N.W. our distance from it was about 9 miles. We hauled our wind to W.S.W. which course we ran for *seven* or *eight* miles; the northernmost part of the field then bore N.N.E. ½ E. and the westernmost N.W. ¼ W. One of the Islands was 17 ¾ miles in length, and that on the farthest extremity was no less than 52 ½ miles. At meridian the nearest distance was about 6 miles.

On Sunday the 19th, the weather was moderate and hazy. At noon the dullness of the hemisphere, and the sun appearing very faintly, made many suppose land to be in sight; but, on sounding 120 fathom, no ground was found: at 10 o'clock the sun shining bright, all parties were convinced it was an ice-bank; this large field or body, by the different bearings, was thought to be near 18 miles in length, as appeared by the distance run by the log, and by the workings of the different courses that the ship had sailed from 10 A.M. in their last log until 5 P.M. in this, when the extremes of it bore East about 8 or 9 miles. At 6 o'clock the extremes of the ice in sight bore S.E. ½ S., distance 3 or 4 leagues. This most tremendous field made the twenty-ninth island of ice we had sailed past, from 5 A.M. until 5 P.M. In the course of the day we discovered a number of birds, seals, and porpoises: the evening was very blustering, during the greater part of which the ship lay-to, and every one appeared anxious to know the event of this dismal night.

On the 21ft, we had a continuance of dark and dismal weather, attended with heavy gales, incessant sleet, and violent labourings of the ship. —In deed, deed all our little comforts were done away by anxiety, seasickness, and darkness; the turbulent waves rendering it necessary for the dead-lights to be up on all sides; and the intense cold obliged us to have stoves and hot shot slung to heat the different cabins.

The 22nd. a great swell remained from the last gale; the appearance of ice was seen to windward again E. by S. to N.E. by N. also whales, birds, rock-weed, together with lightning all round the compass.

These heavy seas and hard gales were our chief attendants until the 27th, when the weather became more moderate, and we once more began to entertain the hope of revisiting those friends, whom we had almost despaired of seeing again: but the anxiety of mind, which I had laboured under for some time, would have been much more poignant had I not been participating the fate of so many others whose good example and patient resignation taught me to consider that I was but an insignificant

individual amongst them.—Nay, had the danger been inevitable, it would have been some consolation in approaching destruction, to have had a prospect of sharing the same fate with him whose virtues I am left to bewail.

Hazy damp weather continued during the first part of the month of March. We discovered frequent shoals of porpoises, also Cape hens, albertrosses, and other birds. Singular as the circumstance may at first appear, a large shark was caught, on opening of which an old Prayer-book, now in my possession, was taken out of its belly; those who know the ravenous appetite of this rapacious fish, will not be surprised at the explanation—as there was a marine on-board whose name was written in but who probably from fear of punishment denied that was his. It appears to have belonged formerly to a convict, as on one of the leaves was written "TO DIE" and underneath "REPRIEVED," with space left on purpose to insert the day of the month. The above circumstance probably *unique* was wittily observed, on the occasion, that would not have been so astonishing if a *Law*-book had been found instead of a *Prayer-book* —as the shark was always thought more of the *Lawyer* than the *Parson*, being called by sailors a *Sea-Lawyer*, as the following little anecdote, related to me upon this occasion, will fully evince.

A certain Judge, on his passage to the East-Indies, looking in distant amaze at the flouncing of an enormous shark, upon which the sailors were operating, enquired with retiring trepidation, "what the prodigious creature could possibly be?" "*Nothing*," replied a Tar, in a tone of voice better conceived than expressed, —"*Nothing, your Honour, but a Sea-Lawyer.*"

The prospect now began to brighten; the expectation of returning safe to the Cape, revived our drooping spirits. Dinner-parties, cards, &c. were once more the pastime of those on-board: even our little birds and plants appeared sensible of the return of sunshine and tranquillity.

CHAP. XI.

Arrive at Table-Bay—take up our abode at Mr. Peter de Witt's—mild treatment of the Slaves at the Cape—a Gentoo—a visit to Constantia—return to Cape Town.

ON the 12th of March, land was once more in view, and at 6 o'clock in the evening the ship was running into *Table-Bay*, where we found two Dutch frigates, a brig of war, several Dutch Indiamen, and ships of different nations. We saw no one from shore that night. Happy at our safe arrival after so many anxieties, the remainder of the evening passed away very agreeably, and the next morning at an early hour one of our- officers went on-shore, and returned, accompanied by Mr. Peter de Witt, with fresh butter, lemons, grapes, figs, apples, meat, and vegetables; refreshments which we began to stand in need of; for, although we did not absolutely want provisions, our stores in general were nearly exhausted; the sheep we took from this place had lost so much that the whole quarter when boiled has not been larger than a fore quarter of lamb.

When we formerly landed at the Cape, my readers will remember, that we lodged at Mrs. de Witt's. We now took our abode at the house of Mr.

Peter de Witt's, a son of the good lady above mentioned. Colonel and Mrs. Gordon lost no time in paying their congratulations upon our return, and renewing their friendly invitations; as did also the Governor, whose name was Monsieur Renies. The Colonel was so obliging as to send his carriage for me; and on my arrival at his villa I had the pleasure of finding all our marine officers, and such of our gentlemen as could be spared from the ship; for, although safely landed in this healthful and plentiful country, we all had sufficient reasons for wishing to proceed on our voyage.

We found the family in good health, nor was their polite attention in the least diminished; nay, after our being confined on-board for three months, even the villa itself appeared, if possible, more beautiful than before.

The lady of Mr. de Witt was extremely attentive to us, and endeavoured to render our abode as comfortable as possible. According to the best of my recollection there were thirty slaves belonging to this house.

The beauty of one of the females particularly struck my attention; the elegance of her deportment, the symmetry of her features, and the pleasing curl of her fine dark hair, could not pass unnoticed by any, excepting those who were unwilling to pay that tribute to the simplicity of nature, which all the assistance of art could not place them in the possession of.

With satisfaction I noticed that the slaves were treated at the Cape with the greatest humanity: and only in name bore the degrading distinction.

They are let out by the month, week, or day, during which time they are obliged to earn for their masters a certain fixed sum. The male slaves wear their own hair, upon which they set a great value, wrapped up in a handkerchief, somewhat like a turban; the females wreath up theirs, and fix it on their heads with a large pin. Trousers constitute the other part of

their dress; and as a token of their servile condition, they always go barefooted, and without a hat.

Previous to sitting down to meals, it is the custom of the Cape for a female slave to bring a basin and a towel for the company to wash their hands; which is repeated on rising from table. In the houses of the wealthy, every one of the company has a slave behind his chair to wait upon him: this slave has frequently a large palm-leaf in his hand, by way of a fan to drive away the flies, which are extremely troublesome in these climates.

The company's gardens, at a small distance from Cape Town, are very pleasant, and the chief resort of persons of respectability in that country. Mrs. Gordon has frequently called upon me in her carriage, and obliged me with a ride to see them; and nothing could be more refreshing than the fragrant evening breezes that generally prevail in these hot climates.

Our time was now taken up in visiting and receiving visits; we had several invitations from the Governor, where the entertainments were elegant, and the company numerous, consisting chiefly of marine officers, and those belonging to our ship.

On the 18th, a Dutch Indiaman arrived from Batavia, and shortly after we were gratified with the company of Captain Edwards, of his Majesty's ship the Pandora, who a few days after landing embarked, and afterwards pursued his voyage in our ship: the convicts also who had escaped from Port Jackson were taken up at sea by the Pandora, and returned to England in the Gorgon.

About this time I had the pleasure of receiving a visit from Mrs. Johnson, a lady who had arrived at the Cape on her return from the East Indies. I was also introduced, by Colonel Burrington, to the acquaintance of a lady, who was so obliging as to favour me with the sight of a Gentoo, which is indeed singular in every respect; they having a gold ring

upon almost every toe, also in their ears and noses, and large silver rings round the ancles; they wear the hair fastened with a silver pin and a curious piece of India muslin, which negligently, though not inelegantly, almost covers their bodies.

A party of us had fixed a day for a jaunt to Constantia, a little district at the Cape of Good Hope, consisting of two farms, which produce the well-known wine so much prized in Europe. It is situated at the distance of a mile and a half from *Alphen*, in a bending, formed by and nearly under the ridge of hills, which comes from Muysen-Mountain, and just where it strikes off towards *Houtbay*. One of these farms is called Little Constantia: here the white wine is made; the other produces the red.

On the morning of the day appointed we set out in two carriages, each containing four persons, and the gentlemen on horseback. We had rode but a very little way before we were overtaken by a smart shower of rain; and as the front seats of the vehicle were not sheltered from it, we were sprinkled in a short time to such a degree that, when we arrived at the end of our journey, we, found ourselves necessitated to refer for a change of cloathing to the good people of the house, who willingly granted our request although we were entire strangers to them.

We met here the Governor of Cape Town, with some captains and officers belonging to the Dutch Man of War then lying at Tatle-Bay. It being the usual compliment in that Country for the Lady of the house to resign her seat at the table, I was invested with that honour, and accordingly placed at the head of a numerous party, (mostly strangers) deprived of all the decorations which vanity, a few hours before, had induced me to bestow upon myself; for, my coat and hat being wet through, I was furnished with a large white jacket belonging to the lady of the house, one half of which I could have spared with great convenience.

We were received and entertained with attention and respect, and tasted the different sorts of the famous wine which borrows its name

from the spot where the grapes grow; although I think I have eaten a similar grape in the Mediterranean; which conjecture is in some measure confirmed by the great quantity of wine that appears under this name;—if I am wrong in my suspicions, these small vineyards, must afford a profusion indeed!

The weather continued much the same during the remainder of the day; however, as we were none of us strangers to a watery element, it rendered it less troublesome to all, and we returned in our borrowed garbs to Cape Town, well pleased with our visit; and affording no small amusement to our friends, from the laughable appearance which we made.

This excursion served us frequently for conversation, and was nearly the last we took during our stay.

CHAP. XII.

Some account of Cape Town—departure from the Cape—Ascension Road—the voyage continued—reach Saint Helens—land at Portsmouth—arrive in London—Conclusion.

ON our return to the Cape, I took several opportunities of walking about the town, in which there are many excellent gardens laid out in the neatest taste, and producing fruit and culinary vegetables in great abundance.

The extensive and beautiful garden belonging to the Company is always open to the publick; and it is from this garden that the stranger, on his arrival, meets with his first refreshments.

The town is adorned with three large squares, in one of which stands the Protestant church; it likewise has a fountain in it, which furnishes the inhabitants with water. In the other is the Town-hall. The third is laid out for the convenience of the country people, who bring their goods to market.

While I was passing my time thus agreeably at the Cape, Captain Parker and the officers were more essentially employed in the necessary preparations both for our safety and support. The Governor and Colonel Gordon's family seemed to study what presents might be most acceptable for us when we next embarked; owing to their goodness, we added, to our stores, wine, goats, liquors, and many other refreshments which were likely to be serviceable to us.

The Ostrich feather is one of the most gaudy and valuable purchases that can be made in this country; and, to those who are amateurs of birds, I can, from experience, recommend the Cape Canary; the plumage of which is much like our green linnet, the breast more yellow, and the colour, if any thing, more lively; it has a very pretty note, and, what renders it still more agreeable, is its being rather louder, though similar to that general favourite and winter companion, the sprightly Robin. One morning I purchased *sixteen*, and the cage containing them, for the moderate sum of *four* shillings and *six* pence.

On the 31ft, we took our final dinner at the hospitable villa before mentioned, and reluctantly bade adieu to the good Colonel and his lady, whose attention to strangers I have signified in the former part of this narrative.

The last farewell being taken, accompanied by a considerable number of our friends, we once more repaired on-board, after having passed a month at the Cape with much satisfaction and pleasure. I began now to turn my thoughts towards Old England, and encouraged the pleasing expectation of being shortly in the company of a mother and two dear children, from whom I had been so long absent.

Our birds, &c., being replaced and lashed as before, we set sail on the 6th of April. With moderate weather we continued our voyage to Saint Helena, which Island was first seen on the 18th at midnight, and by ½ past 7 in the morning we could perceive three ships in the road, viz. I

Swedish, 1 English Indiaman, and a Whaler. The necessity of returning with the dispatches of the Colony as speedily as possible left us no time for delay at this island; we therefore contented ourselves with viewing the shore at a considerable distance; thus, favoured with pleasant breezes and trade-winds, we rolled merrily on till the, 23d, when we anchored in 15 fathom, at *Ascension Road.* At this uninhabited Island we found the *Betsy*, an American schooner, with the master, his wife, and four or five men on board, without a grain of tea or scarcely any provisions. Our boats were sent on-shore, with men, to try if it were possible to procure some turtle; they shortly returned with a sufficient quantity, which was of infinite service to numbers on-board.

The sea continued tranquil and the ship still, which made our short stay very agreeable. After leaving the body of a child on shore for interment, we again set sail on the 25th.

The moderate weather, and fine trade-winds, added to the pleasing hope of seeing our friends in a little time, made the remainder of our voyage appear short. The beginning of the month of May, we had light winds and frequent calms, which tended to prolong our journey, and to do away the expectations we had formed of returning to Spithead about the 6th of June.

However, the intrusion of calms was easily endured by us; for, after sailing so many thousand miles together, our little parties were, if possible, more agreeable than at first setting-out, and for this reason it must not be supposed that our friendship for each other had in the least degree diminished, but much the contrary.

About the middle of June, we reached Saint Helens: Captain Parker and the other gentlemen, intrusted with government dispatches, fixed the same evening for their departure for London. Captain Edwards accompanied me on-shore, and after four hours rowing against wind and tide, we landed at the *Salley Port*, at Portsmouth, where we were met by many,

who, astonished at the speedy return of our ship, cheerfully congratulated us on our arrival.

We repaired to the Fountain Inn, and, after seeing the above gentlemen set off for London, I retired to rest. Early the next morning, accompanied by one of our officers, I took chaise, and arrived in town at 8 o'clock the same evening, where I had the happiness of again embracing an affectionate mother, and a little daughter, who is at this present time one of my greatest comforts; my other child, a boy, had died during my absence. This vacancy in my family did not, however, remain long after my arrival; for, on the Thursday *following*. Captain Parker had luckily taken lodgings in Frith-street, Soho, *in the morning*, where, after a short ride from my friend's house, I was safe in bed at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. This little boy is of the number of those for whose *benefit*, by the advice of my friends, I have taken the liberty to set forth this narrative; humbly hoping that my kind readers will pass over the many faults with which it abounds, when they reflect that it was written under the pressure of mind, occasioned by the unexpected loss of him, who was indeed an indulgent husband, and a tender parent. The youngest of these fatherless children is an infant of *seven* months, who has chiefly been on my left arm, whilst the right was employed in bringing once more to my recollection the pleasing occurrences of *fifteen* months, spent in the company of him, whose kind attention supported me under all my affliction:—but the scene is changed—a retrospect of the *past* tends only to augment my *present* calamities; whilst the *future* presents nothing to my view but the gloomy prospect of additional misfortunes and additional sorrows!

FINIS.

NOTES

[1] A compliment paid in Spain by the ladies to each other on entering a room. The last comer just touches the hand of every lady, at the same time curtseying and repeating continually "*di los manos.*"

[2] Whilst writing the above, intelligence has been received of the death of this gentleman, in an engagement with the Rohilla Chiefs, on the 26th of October, 1794.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mary Ann Parker was born in England in 1765/6 and died at her son-in-law's residence in 1848 where she lived the last years of her life. She travelled to New South Wales aboard the frigate HMS Gorgon Man of War whose captain was her husband John Parker (1749?-1794) of the Royal Navy, who had served during the siege of Gibraltar (1779-1783). The Third Fleet ship in addition to supplies, which the settlement of Port Jackson, an Australian colony, desperately needed, also transported prisoners to the penal settlement of Sidney.

Mary Anne Parker accepted her beloved husband's invitation to join him on the trip and regretfully left the two young children behind in London with her mother. The trip lasted fifteen months, during which time back in England their little boy died, but a few days after their return to London Mary Ann Parker had a son and in 1794 a daughter.

John Parker died in 1794 of yellow fever during one of his voyages to the American colonies, in Martinique, leaving his wife in dire financial straits as his debts exceeded the prize money he received for his share of the ships captured in the West Indies; which is why Mary Ann decided to write this book about the voyage. Despite the publication had a large number of subscribers, her finances consisted of a meagre widow's pension and the rent of a few rooms in her house in Chelsea. In March 1796 the Royal Literary Fund Committee accepted her application and granted her the sum of five guineas. Other applications in later years were approved as her financial situation became increasingly precarious. In fact, the last disbursement she was awarded was mailed to her on January 25, 1804 at the 3d Gallery, Fleet Prison when she lost her home and spent time in the prison for insolvency in London.

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"A Voyage round the World, in the Gorgon Man of War, Captain John Parker; performed and written by his Widow, for the Advantage of a numerous Family.

THE meritorious view with which this little narrative was compiled, and the liberal encouragement it has experienced by a respectable list of subscribers, would be a sufficient protection against the rigour of criticism, even were there room for it: but, in truth, we have only to regret that Mrs. P. did not write more."

The Gentlemen Magazine, 1795

England 1791. Captain John Parker in command of the HMS Gorgon invited his wife Mary Ann Parker to join him on the long sea voyage of the third fleet to New South Wales in Australia, carrying provisions to the starving colony and convicts for the penal colony of Sydney.

The sense of adventure, her good humor that characterize her writing offer us a glimpse into the past with vivid images of picturesque and exotic nature, of people, of settlers and slavery.

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